

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ORM-01 DHA-02 EA-07 AID-05

INSE-00 HEW-02 IO-10 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 VO-03 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

DODE-00 /088 W

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P R 261200Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2383

INFO CINCPACREP GAUM

CAMP PENDLETON

FORT CHAFFEE

EGLIN AFB FLA

INDIAN TOWN GAP PA

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13867

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN FRG

REFS: (A) STATE 197654 (NOTAL):

(B) BONN 13577

1. SUMMARY: THE FRG HAS PROBLEMS IN ACCEPTING A LARGE
NUMBER OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES BUT WILL RECONSIDER ITS
POSITION. IT ALSO WILL URGE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO SPEED
UP PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR RESETTLEMENT IT HAS
ALREADY RECEIVED. END SUMMARY

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2. THE CHARGE APPROACHED FONOFF (LAHN, POLITICAL DIRECTOR FOR THE THIRD WORLD) ON AUGUST 25 PURSUANT TO REFTEL AND LEFT WITH LAHN A PAPER CONTAINING ITS MAIN POINTS. THE CHARGE REFERRED TO THE POSITIVE STEPS THE FRG HAS ALREADY TAKEN - ACCEPTED 1,800 (1,600 OF WHOM ARE STUDENTS) VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS PRESENTLY IN THE FRG, PROVIDED 3 MILLION DM FOR REFUGEE RELIEF, AND HAD DECIDED AT THE CABINET LEVEL TO ACCEPT REFUGEES.

3. HOWEVER, THE FRG HAS ACCEPTED ONLY FOUR REFUGEES FROM OUTSIDE THE FRG. THE CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT WE ARE NOW FACED WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEM OF AN ADDITIONAL 20,000 REFUGEES IN SEA. THE FRG COULD ASSIST BY: 1) SPEEDING UP THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS ALREADY MADE FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE FRG, AND 2) ACCEPTING AN ADDITIONAL 1,000 REFUGEES FROM SEA.

4. LAHN EXPLAINED THAT THE CABINET HAD AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE LAENDER ACCEPT REFUGEES WHO MEET ONE OF THREE CRITERIA:

- A. THOSE WHO HAVE RELATIVES IN THE FRG;
- B. THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED FOR THE FRG, AND;
- C. THOSE WHO ARE PARTICULARLY TRAGIC CASES.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO THOSE WHO MEET CRITERIA (A), 20 RPT 20 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED. AN ADDITIONAL 200 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND ARE BEING PROCESSED.

6. LAHN REFERRED TO THE CURRENT GERMAN POLICY OF NOT RENEWING WORK PERMITS FOR THE 1.2 MILLION GUESTWORKERS IN THE FRG. THESE PEOPLE ARE ALREADY INTEGRATED TO A DEGREE IN GERMAN SOCIETY AND ECONOMY, BUT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION HAS FORCED THIS POLICY ON THE FRG. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE PROSPECTIVE INFLUX OF 125,000 REFUGEES FROM POLAND OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13867

7. THE CHARGE ALLUDED TO THE FRG'S HISTORICAL POLICY OF WELCOMING REFUGEES. THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER WE ARE ASKING THE FRG TO ACCEPT SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE GREAT TO A COUNTRY WHOSE POPULATION WAS ONE-THIRD REFUGEES TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. AS FOR THE FOREIGN WORKERS, THEY HAVE A HOME TO RETURN TO, WHEREAS THE REFUGEES FROM SEA DO NOT.

8. LAHN EMPHASIZED THAT FROM A CONSTITUTIONAL POINT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEW THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, MUST AGREE TO ACCEPT REFUGEES. SOME OF THE LOCAL FUNDS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ARE HEAVILY STRAINED. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IN AN UNUSUAL STEP, HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT THEY BE AS LENIENT AS POSSIBLE. AS A RESULT OF THE CHARGE'S APPROACH, HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REITERATE ITS INTEREST TO THE LAENDER.

9. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE CHARGE, LAHN

SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE IDEA OF CLASSIFYING THE REFUGEES REMAINING IN SEA AS A GROUP ALL MEETING THE CRITERIA AS PARTICULARLY TRAGIC CASES.

10. EMBASSY COMMENT: OUR APPROACH SHOULD CAUSE A SPEED UP IN THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FROM REFUGEES WHO HAVE RELATIVES IN THE FRG. WHETHER THE FRG WILL ACCEPT ANOTHER 1,000 IS QUESTIONABLE. IT WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUT, BUT IT IS FACED WITH REAL PROBLEMS WITH THE FOREIGN WORKERS WHO ARE ALREADY INTEGRATED INTO THE FRG AND WHO ARE BEING EASED HOME, WITH THE PROSPECTIVE ARRIVAL OF 125,000 ETHNIC GERMANS FROM POLAND AND WITH CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ACTION. THE REFUGEE CAMPS SHOULD INSURE THAT THOSE REFUGEES WHO MEET ANY OF THE CRITERIA IN PARA 4 SO INDICATE ON THEIR APPLICATIONS.
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